



*National Policy for the Stewardship of  
the Ocean,  
Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes*

**U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting**

Washington, DC

February 23, 2012

Michael Weiss  
Acting Director  
National Ocean Council Office

# National Ocean Policy



# Progress To Date

- ✓ Established inter-jurisdictional Governance Coordinating Committee
- ✓ National Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Workshop
- ✓ Launch of Ocean.Data.gov
- ✓ Improved agency collaboration
- ✓ Development of Draft Implementation Plan



# Implementation Plan



## DRAFT NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

National Ocean Council



*An America whose stewardship ensures that the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes are healthy and resilient, safe and productive, and understood and treasured so as to promote the well-being, prosperity, and security of present and future generations.*

# Examples of Implementation Plan Actions

- Strengthen interagency collaboration to protect and conserve coral reef ecosystems.
- Reduce rural sources of excessive nutrients, sediments, toxics, and pathogens
- Reduce vulnerability to climate change
- Locate, control, and eradicate invasive species
- Strengthen and integrate ocean observations



# Benefits

- Efficiency and collaboration
- Integrated approach to managing resources
- Best available science and information
- Supports and complements existing regional efforts
- Targets limited resources



# What's Next

- **Implementation Plan**
  - Public comment period through February 27
  - Final Plan released in Spring 2012
  - Agency implementation
  - Will review and adapt as needed
- **Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning**
  - RPB guidance
  - Reach out to States, Tribes
  - NE Regional Workshop

# Questions

*“America’s stewardship of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes is intrinsically linked to environmental sustainability, human health and well-being, national prosperity, adaptation to climate and other environmental changes, social justice, international diplomacy, and national and homeland security.”*

President Barack Obama

*Executive Order 13547*

